If your company has suffered storm-related damage, we would like to make you aware of assistance the State of Connecticut is now offering.

See below information from **Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD)** and **Department of Revenue Services (DRS)**

Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD)

A team of DECD workers has been assembled to work with the Brookfield Chamber of Commerce, which serves as a business resource center for the agency. They will assist in indentifying financial and technical resources, as well as serve as business advocates with utility assistance, insurance companies, and federal agencies.

DECD has also established a Small Business Revolving Loan Program and works in conjunction with seven lending partners throughout the state. Details can be accessed here. Information for all DECD services can also be accessed by calling 860-270-8215.

Highlights of DECD assistance include:

- 1. Loans of up to \$200,000 to companies for storm-related damage, including property, machinery and equipment, and working capital;
- 2. Loan guarantees of up to \$200,000 will be provided to banks and other lenders to spur local lending to businesses impacted by the storm;
- 3. Grants will be available to businesses for assistance in disaster recovery, such as temporary help and training; and
- 4. Technical assistance, linking businesses to a wide array of state and federal resources.

Agricultural businesses are also eligible for funding.

Department of Revenue Services (DRS)

DRS' previous deadlines of August 31 and September 1 for filing certain business taxes have been extended to September 7, 2011 to help taxpayers impacted by the storm. DRS officials recognize that some business owners or their preparers may now be unable to meet the previous filing deadline. By extending the deadline for these tax filings to September 7, businesses should be able to meet their filing requirements and not incur penalties or interest.

Filing extensions that will be granted to taxpayers in counties subject to federal or state declarations of emergency or disaster include:

- o Sales and use tax,
- o Business use tax.

o room occupancy tax,
o Admission and dues tax,
o Alcoholic beverage tax,
o Tourism surcharge,
o Weekly income tax withholding, and
o Corporation business tax.

Taxpayers mandated to pay by electronic funds transfer are reminded that they must initiate payment by 4:30 p.m. on the business day prior to the due date. Electronic returns must be filed and paper returns must be post-marked by midnight, September 7, 2011, to be considered timely.

If business taxpayers impacted by Irene receive a late filing notice from DRS for the August 31 or September 1 filing deadline, they should call the department's Taxpayer Services line at (860) 297-5962 to explain the situation.